

REMARKS

I. Status of claims

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 7 has been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

II. Claim Rejections

A. Rejection of Claims 7, 9-13, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 7, 9-13, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed. While the language of independent claim 7 has been amended to delete the language found objectionable, the Examiner's attention is directed to page 11, second paragraph of the specification, which states that "...the forms used in generating a loan application, in accordance with the invention, are centralized in a single location at web site 96 hosted by system computer 98. This eliminates errors produced by bank employees grabbing or designating the incorrect loan form".

With respect to dependent claims 9-13 and 16, applicant assumes that these claims are rejected by virtue of their dependency since the Office Action provides no specific reason for the rejection aside from that provided with respect to claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits that all claimed features are fully described in the specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-6, 14, 15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3-6, 14, 15, and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 7,395,239 to Riseman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,721 to Norris. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). That is, “[a]ll words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970); *In re Edward S. Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

The combination of Riseman and Norris fails to disclose all of the features of pending independent claims 1 and 6. The Office Action states that Riseman discloses all features of claims 1 and 6 except (a) sending a loan application to a credit approval agency, (b) a loan forms database storing forms used in the creation of loan documents and (c) a loan document creation server, wherein the loan processor computing system, upon approving the loan application, automatically forwards the loan application to the loan document creation server, the loan document creation server generating and sending the loan document to the customer. (See page 4, 2nd paragraph of Office Action). The Office Action states that Norris teaches these features.

However, even if combined, Riseman and Norris would not have resulted in the invention as set forth in claim 1. Specifically, with respect to claim 1, Riseman and Norris fail to disclose (1) a web site coupled to the network, the web site prompting the customer to enter the loan information, receiving the loan information, and ***merging the loan information with a loan application form to produce a loan application***; (2) a loan processor computing system hosting the web site and storing the loan application form, the loan processor computing system

receiving the loan application and automatically performing a credit check on the customer based on the loan application, *wherein the loan processor computing system performs the credit check by sending the loan application to a credit approval agency*, (3) a loan forms database storing forms used in the creation of loan documents; and (4) *a loan document creation server coupled to the loan processor computing system and the loan forms database, wherein the loan processor computing system, upon approving the loan application, automatically forwards the loan application to the loan document creation server, the loan document creation server accessing the loan forms database and automatically generating and sending the loan document to the customer.*

With respect to (1), the Office Action references Riseman at Column 4, line 37 through Column 5, line 17 and Figure 1 to disclose this limitation. However, this section of Riseman fails to disclose merging the loan information with a loan application form to produce a loan application.

In the claimed invention, a loan application is created from the loan information so that the application is forwarded both to a credit agency and to a document server for creation of loan documents. However, in the system of Riseman, no documents are forwarded, rendering the merging of information to create a loan application unnecessary. No document server is included and furthermore, the computer running the Mortgage system software (MSS) 106 performs all of the processing steps, thereby eliminating the need for a loan application for forwarding. Accordingly, it is not necessary for Riseman to merge information from a form to create a loan application, since the MSS unilaterally evaluates the entered information. For example, as set forth in Column 5, lines 31-35, in step 204, the MSS automatically accesses and reviews data regarding the applicant's credit history. Further, in step 206, the MSS applies

underwriting rules and in step 208, the MSS determines whether to approve the loan application. In Riseman, it appears that the entered information itself, as entered by the user comprises the “loan application”.

Riseman also fails to disclose (2) the loan processor computing system performs the credit check *by sending the loan application to a credit approval agency*, since Riseman at most collects information from a credit agency, but does not send a loan application to another entity. Norris also fails to disclose this feature. The Office Action references column 6, lines 8-45 of Norris. However, these sections are not relevant to the claimed feature of *sending the loan applicant to a credit approval agency*. Instead, this section refers to internal analysis by the neural network once information from the credit bureau is received. Rather, Column 4, lines 35-56 describe the credit approval process. *Norris does not send the loan application to the credit bureau*. Rather, Norris sends the “applicant’s name, address and social security number to the credit bureau.” Applicant’s specification on page 7, line 22 through page 8, line 6 describes the claimed process, which differs from merely sending the applicant’s name to obtain a credit report.

Riseman and Norris both fail to specifically disclose (3) a loan forms database storing forms used in the creation of loan documents. Riseman merely states that traditional methods are used and although the process of Norris results in the output of documents, Norris fails to provide any description whatsoever as to how these documents are created.

Furthermore, the Office Action states that “the differences between the loan application of the prior art and the claimed limitation are rooted only in content. And content is nonfunctional descriptive material. Patentable weight need not be given to descriptive

material...". See page 10 of the Office Action. These assertions are incorrect on many levels. First, The differences are not rooted in "content". In fact, no "content" is claimed. "Content" would include, for example, the parameters of the loan application, such as income, amount, payments, etc. The question in the instant case is whether a loan application is produced to be forwarded in the prior art as required by the presently pending independent claims. Applicant contends that no such application that is produced and forwarded is disclosed in the prior art. Secondly, the limitation simply does not involve a question of "descriptive material" or "patentable weight". It is well established that all limitations must be given patentable weight during examination.

Riseman and Norris both fail to disclose (4) *a loan document creation server coupled to the loan processor computing system and the loan forms database, wherein the loan processor computing system, upon approving the loan application, automatically forwards the loan application to the loan document creation server, the loan document creation server accessing the loan forms database and automatically generating and sending the loan document to the customer.* As set forth above, Riseman generates documents using traditional methods. Although Norris ultimately provides these documents to the customer, this step is not described as being part of the closed loop automated process of Norris. Thus, it is assumed that Norris also generates these documents using traditional methods. As set forth in the title of Norris and throughout the specification, the automated process of Norris is directed to loan approval. Document origination is not addressed in the disclosure of Norris. Thus, Norris fails to disclose a loan document creation server that generates documents by accessing a forms database upon receiving the approved loan application from the loan processor computer system.

Accordingly, Norris and Riseman fail to obviate the above mentioned deficiencies of one another. Thus, even if combined, Riseman and Norris would not have resulted in the invention of claim 1. Accordingly, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established. Specifically, before considering what would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, the art must teach or suggest the claim limitations. See MPEP §2143.

Furthermore, no motivation would have existed to modify Riseman with the disclosure of Norris. As set forth above, neither Norris nor Riseman provides a system for generating loan documents. Instead, both references disclose systems for obtaining loan approval and contain no reference to document generation. Because the two references merely disclose different processes for performing the same action (loan approval), no purpose would have been served by combining them.

Thus, the combination of the teaching of Riseman and Norris is insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 1 because the combination of references fails to disclose each claimed feature and because no motivation would have existed to combine the references.

Independent claim 6 sets forth similar limitations to those set forth above with respect to claim 1 in method form and therefore defines over the art of record for reasons parallel to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. The combination of Riseman and Norris fails to disclose these features and therefore a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

As set forth above, even if combined, Riseman and Norris fail to disclose each and every claimed feature. Accordingly, the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Specifically, before considering what would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time of the invention, the art must teach or suggest the claim limitations. See MPEP §2143.

Thus, the combination of the teaching of Riseman and Norris is insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 1 and 6 because the combination of references fails to disclose each claimed feature and because no motivation would have existed to combine the references.

The Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness that the pending claims are unpatentable. “During patent examination, the PTO bears the initial burden of presenting a *prima facie* case of unpatentability.” *In re Glaug*, 283 F.3d 1135, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1151, 1152 (Fed. Cir. 2002). “If the PTO fails to meet this burden, the applicant is entitled to the patent.” *Id.* “To support the conclusion that the claimed combination is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed combination or the Examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references.” *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int., 1985). The references applied in the Office Action fail to suggest the claimed invention for at least the reasons set forth with regard to each claim below. An artisan of ordinary skill would not have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teaching of the applied references. As the Examiner has not presented a *prima facie* case of unpatentability, applicant is entitled to a patent.

Claims 3-6, 14, 15, and 17-20 depend from claims 1 and 6, and define over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

C. Rejection of Claims 7-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7-13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Riseman and Norris and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,740,035 to Cohen. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Cohen fails to obviate the deficiencies of Norris and Riseman noted above. Independent claim 7 defines over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1 and additionally includes the features of analyzing the received loan information for completeness and prompting the customer if the received loan information is incomplete and merging, at the loan approval system computer, the loan information with a loan application form stored at the loan approval system computer, to produce a loan application.

Claims 8-13 and 16 depend from claim 7 and therefore define over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 6, and 7. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

As set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of all rejections and prompt passage to issuance are earnestly requested. In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, payment of fee, or

additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefore and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 50-4494.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding any of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at 202-346-4016.

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Respectfully submitted,

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